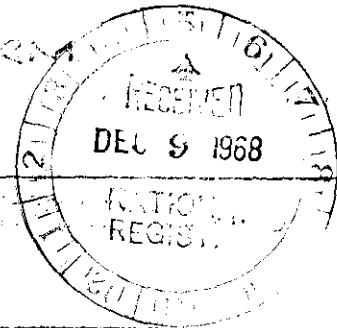


NATIONAL REGISTER

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM



1. NAME

MERCHANT'S HOPE CHURCH

MERCHANT'S HOPE CHURCH

2. LOCATION

Virginia

Prince George

Vicinity of Hopewell

Located .1 mi. W of Walls Run, on the north side of Route 641, .5 mi. west of the intersection of Route 641 and Route 10.

3. PRESENT STATUS

The Trustees of Merchant's Hope Church, Prince George County, Virginia

Church and Tourist attraction

☒ YES

☐ NO

REMARKS:

The church is open during Garden Week, and at certain other times.

4. LEGAL RECORD

NAME OF CURRENT PROPERTY TITLE(S)
AND (COUNTY, RECORD OF DEEDS, ETC.) AND ADDRESS

Prince George County Court House, Prince George, Virginia.

5 acres

5. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Historic American Buildings Survey
(VA-405)

A. Library of Congress
Washington, D. C.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Inventory, 1958.

B. Library of Congress
Washington, D. C.

Virginia Historic Landmarks
Commission Report #74-9

C. Room 1106, Ninth Street State Office
Bldg., Richmond, Virginia 23219

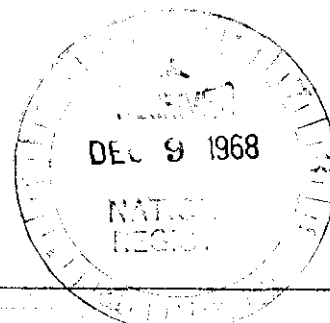
6. CLASSIFICATION

PROPERTY TYPE	MONUMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
STRUCTURE <input type="checkbox"/>	HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OBJECT <input type="checkbox"/>	ARCHITECTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	STATE <input type="checkbox"/>
STRUCTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CULTURE <input type="checkbox"/>	LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/>
OBJECT <input type="checkbox"/>	(OTHER) <input type="checkbox"/>	

7. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Merchant's Hope Church is a small rectangular building approximately 60' x 25', and is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers above the water table and English bond below. The gable roof has splayed eaves with a modillioned cornice, and the gable end front exhibits a rubbed brick arched entranceway and gallery window. The sash in the semi-circular arch window is thought to be colonial but probably replaces an earlier one.

Some of the interior was destroyed during the Civil War, and the aisles were changed at some time from a T to an L shape. The present interior dates from 1870 when the church was returned to use but archaeological evidence acquired during the restoration work of 1957 disclosed the location of the principal features of the original interior. The church still retains its original Portland stone flooring tiles.



8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

INCLUDE HISTORY, PERIODS, EVENTS, MAJOR SOURCES OF INFORMATION, ETC.

The greatest significance of Merchant's Hope Church lies in its well preserved, fine colonial brickwork, and its great age. According to James Scott Rawlings, leading authority on Virginia's colonial churches, "the chief evidence in favor of a seventeenth century origin for this remarkable building is the utter simplicity of its west doorway, a simplicity that is matched among surviving structures only at Jamestown (and even at Jamestown the arch is ornamented by imposts). Merchant's Hope is probably our oldest church...Because of its excellent state of preservation and the details of its masonry, its exterior, which is so devoid of unnecessary adornment, represents the supremely classical example of ecclesiastical architecture in colonial Virginia." In support of this, the date 1657 appears on one of the roof timbers of the church. Richard Bland and Edmund Ruffin, the agriculturist, worshipped here regularly.

(See attached sheet for Bibliography and continuation of #8)

9. CERTIFICATION

LOCAL AUTHORITY OF THE PROPERTY (ADDRESS AND LOCATION)

Katherine T. Read
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PROPERTY
IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

STATE LANDMARKS OFFICE (ADDRESS AND LOCATION)

AS THE DESIGNATED STATE LANDMARK OFFICE
FOR THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ACT OF 1966 (P.L. 89-663), I
HEREBY NOMINATE THIS PROPERTY FOR
INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
AND CERTIFY THAT IT HAS BEEN
EVALUATED ACCORDING TO THE CRITERIA
AND PROCEDURES SET FORTH BY THE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

NAME:

TITLE:

DATE:

8. Continued.

As documented by Rawlings, the church "was built to serve as the parish church of Jordan's Parish, but became a chapel of ease of Westover Parish in 1688 and the upper chapel of Martin's Brandon Parish in 1720. Jordan's Parish was created by 1655 out of the western portion of Westover Parish that lay south of the James River. All of the parishes of Prince George County (except Bristol Parish) were united with Martin's Brandon Parish in 1720."

Bibliography:

- Brock, Henry Irving. Colonial Churches in Virginia (Richmond, 1930).
- Daniel, J. R. V., "These Still Stand: Some Early Virginia Colonial Churches," Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. 1 (Autumn 1951), pp. 5-8.
- Dunn, N. P., "Merchant's Hope Church, Martin's Brandon Parish, Virginia," Colonial Churches in the Original Colony of Virginia, 2nd ed., revised, (New York, 1963).
- Mason, George Carrington. Colonial Churches of Tidewater, Virginia (Richmond, 1945).
- "Merchant's Hope Church," pamphlet printed by Merchants Hope Church Foundation, Inc.
- O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia, (Virginia Museum, 1968).
- Rawlings, James Scott. Virginia's Colonial Churches: An Architectural Guide. (Richmond, 1963).
- Rose, Harold Wickliffe. The Colonial Houses of Worship in America. pp. 462-3.
- Scribner, Robert L. "Martin as Merchant, Plus Hope," Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. 6, (Spring 1957), pp. 44-47.